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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/771,078
Applicants : Beylotte, et al.
Filed : February 3, 2004
TC/A.U. : 3676
Examiner : Suzanne Dino Barrett
Docket No. : STS-P026-04
Customer No. : 27268

Confirmation No. 1961

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 28, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification are reflected in the replacement paragraph which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

[63] Controls 32 store the information received from the user, compare it to a signal received through antenna 60, and determine if the token is authorized access to interior region 16 of vending machine 10. Additional description of a suitable authentication process is provided in U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. ~~unknown~~ 60/336,037, filed Nov. ~~XX~~ 2, 2001, titled Software for Vending Machine Lock, to Long, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

[69] Preferred threaded fastener 144 is an expansion nut that includes a base 164, a plurality of thread segments or second interactive members 166 positioned in base, an end cap 168, and a spring 170 as shown in FIGS. 11 and 12. When rod 36 is inserted into fastener 144, thread segments 166 are pushed radially outward against the bias of spring 170. After rod 36 is in position, spring 170 pushes thread segments 166 back in so that female threads 172 defined by thread segments 166 mate with male threads 174 of rod 36.